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U. S. Department of Agriculture

C O P Y

July 27, 1934.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Secretary:

There are transmitted herewith items for consideration in connection with the preparation of the report to the Recovery Council for the week ending July 27.

Grasshopper Control Effective in South Dakota.--A. L. Ford, Extension Entomologist, Brookings, S.D., reports that the State's allotment of over 12,000 tons of grasshopper bait will be used up by the end of July, and that results have exceeded their expectations. The campaign has demonstrated to the farmers that heavy infestations of grasshoppers over large areas can be effectively controlled by the use of poisoned bait.

A European Grain Sawfly Invades New Territory in Atlantic States.--The black grain-stem sawfly, a native of the Ukraine in Russia, and which was discovered in this country near Gaithersburg, Md., in 1918, has been gradually extending its range ever since. During the present summer the insect has appeared in large numbers west of the Alleghany Mountains and has crossed the boundary of Ohio into Trumbull, Mahoning, and Columbiana Counties and perhaps to other localities not yet discovered. A recent hurried survey has shown that in eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania at least 24 percent of the wheat stubble is infested, while in many fields over 90 percent of the wheat stems had been severed at the ground line causing the grain to lodge or fall to the ground where it was a total loss.

Range Caterpillar Infestation Reduced by Drought.--The range caterpillar, a large species which has been depleting the ranges of the valuable blue grama grass in northeastern New Mexico, has been greatly reduced by the extremely dry conditions which have prevailed for the last two years in this section. In Colfax and Mora Counties only a few spots of infestation remain.

Boll Weevil Conditions.--The boll weevil situation has not materially changed during the past week, the infestation continuing spotted with serious damage in some localities. The hot, dry weather over much of the Cotton Belt has been very beneficial in checking weevil development. Flight screen records and field observations at Tallulah, La., indicate that migration has started in some fields but is not yet general. R. C. Gaines, of the Tallulah, La., laboratory, reports a severe infestation of

17.7 percent to 85.8 percent, averaging 45.9 percent last week in unpoisoned cotton in Madison Parish, La. Poisoning for boll weevil is general in the Parish.

Leaf Worm Serious in Texas.--K. P. Ewing of the Port Lavaca, Tex., Laboratory, reports that leaf worms have increased rapidly in the vicinity of Port Lavaca, and control measures were necessary. More than a carload of poison has been sold for this purpose and practically every farmer is preparing to dust. About 12,000 acres were dusted by airplane July 14 and 15, but this was too late to keep most of the worms from webbing up. It is expected that the next generation of leaf worm moths originating in Calhoun County will be scattered a considerable distance as well as causing a severe local infestation on young cotton. R. W. Moreland reports that it was necessary to dust about 150 acres for leaf worm in Burleson County, Tex.

Cotton Perforator in Arizona.--T. P. Cassidy, of the Tucson, Ariz., Laboratory, found the cotton perforator in damaging numbers in a 5-acre field south of Tucson, Ariz. This infestation was unusual in that it was confined to thrifty growing plants, for as a rule the perforator does not reach the damaging point in southern Arizona when cotton is kept in a good growing condition.

Maine Apple Crop Cut 72 Percent by Cold.--It is reported that the State Department of Agriculture of Maine estimates that this year's crop will be 72 percent less than last year's as a result of last winter's extremely low temperatures.

Oregon Apple Crop Larger than Last Year.--A newspaper report indicates that Oregon's 1934 yield is estimated at 4,938,000 bushels, compared with a crop of 3,500,000 bushels a year ago and with a five-year average of 4,981,000 bushels. The crop will be several weeks earlier than usual.

The Fruit Fly in Texas.--Trapping on the Texas side of the Rio Grande for the week ending July 21, resulted in the taking of five adult A. pallens. None of the other species of Anastrepha, either adults or larvae, were taken in the Valley. A total of 3,265 larvae of ludens were recovered from imported fruit in Matamoros. The majority of these larvae were taken from mangoes originating in the State of Colima.

Japanese Beetle Excursion in New Jersey.--Four officials of the Canadian Department of Agriculture and twenty-four officials and fruit growers from Maryland made a tour on July 16 over the heavily infested area in southern New Jersey. Complete skeletonization of many entire orchards was seen on either side of the highway for a distance of 20 miles. Heavy damage to corn and alfalfa was also seen. After visiting several points where inspection phases of the work were seen, the party visited a large nursery

at Roadstown, where the foliage of a large rose block was completely skeletonized by the beetle.

Heavy Flights of Japanese Beetles Make Inspection More Difficult.--Heavy flights of the beetle at a number of spur tracks in New Jersey at which large quantities of agricultural products are loaded in refrigerator cars have intensified the methods used to prevent such cars from becoming infested. As soon as information is received as to the spotting of the cars for icing and loading, an inspector examines the ice bunkers and the interior of the car for live beetles. When the examination has been completed and any beetles present are removed, the hatches of the ice bunkers and the doors of the car are closed and sealed until loading or icing is started. If beetles are flying, the loading is delayed until the flight has subsided for the day. At Cedarville, N.J., a special beetle-proof canopy sufficiently large to cover an entire truck has been constructed. This canopy is moved up to the door of a refrigerator car and the intervening space between the car and the canopy is screened with loose mosquito netting. The truck load of certified products is backed into the cage and the front canvas curtains lowered. Any beetles present in the cage are killed with a contact insecticide. The doors of the car are opened and the unloading proceeds. When one truck has unloaded, the doors of the car are closed until the next truck is backed in, when the procedure is repeated until the car is completely loaded.

Satin Moth Apparently not Spreading in Maine.--Satin moth scouting along the quarantine line in Maine has indicated little or no spread in that section.

High Temperatures and Mechanical Methods Serve as a Means of Saving the Pea Crop in Eastern Washington and Western Idaho from Destruction.--J. E. Dudley, of the Madison, Wis., Laboratory, was detailed to assist in the control of the pea aphid on the seed pea crop in eastern Washington and western Idaho where infestations of the pest were so severe that the outlook for a successful crop was not very promising. Mr. Dudley's early observations upon arriving in the area showed that the aphids or plant lice when knocked from the pea vines at a period in the day when the temperatures were the highest were unable to return to the plant but succumbed in a very short time. The sparseness of the pea growth allowed the sun rays to reach the surface of the soil. Drags of bamboo poles 40 feet long and 4 poles wide were constructed, and in two days 1,200 acres of peas were gone over with these bamboo drags. In some fields the control obtained ranged from 50 to 90 percent. In the cases of the lower percentage of kill, the vines covered the ground so that the sun rays could not reach the aphids which were knocked from the plants. Mr. Dudley reports that 15,000 acres of seed for cannery peas are involved and the prompt inauguration of control measures will probably reduce the injury to a considerable extent.

Parasites of Forest Insects Liberated.--During June adults of several species of parasites that issued from material received from W. F. Sellers,

Budapest, Hungary, were sent out from the Melrose Highlands, Mass., field laboratory for liberation in the field. Adults of Copidosoma geniculatum Dal., Tetrastichus turionum Hart., and Actia nudibasis Stein were liberated in infestations of the European pine shoot moth in New England and New York. Angitia laricinella Strobl. and Bassus pumilus Ratz. were put out in other New England and New York areas where the larch case bearer is present, and adults of Meteorus versicolor Wesm. and Rogas unicolor Nees were sent to the State of Washington for liberation in satin moth infestations. Some of the two last-mentioned species were also liberated in New England.

Screw Worm Outbreak in Georgia Widespread.--The screw worm outbreak in Georgia has spread into all the coastal counties of the State. At the present time sheep are more affected than other livestock. The infestation usually starts in the ears of sheep where blood has been drawn by the biting of the gulf coast tick, Amblyomma maculatum. In Long County a flock of 539 sheep was examined and the entire flock found to be infested in the ears by the tick. On many animals 50 or more ticks were found. The ears were raw, sore, and bleeding, and some infested with screw worms, the condition being ideal for screw worm attack. No word has been received indicating that the FERA project outlined by Georgia authorities has been put into effect.

Mosquito Control in Massachusetts Successful.--The State Reclamation Board of Massachusetts reports as follows concerning the results obtained by the mosquito control work prosecuted by this Bureau by use of C.W.A. funds in Massachusetts last winter: "Due to the ditching on the salt marshes the mosquito nuisance along the coast of the State is very greatly reduced. The effects are apparent for a considerable distance inland--10 miles or more in some cases. There has been a very noticeable increase in property values in certain summer resorts since the annoyance of mosquitoes has been removed."

Stable Flies Interfere with Farm Work in Florida.--In northwestern Florida along the Gulf Coast the stable fly, Stomoxys calcitrans (known locally as the "dog fly"), is causing serious trouble by reason of its attacks on livestock. The attack is made in such numbers and with such severity in many cases as to require farmers to take their horses and mules from the harness and place them in protected places. Cattle cease grazing and bunch together for protection or go out into the water until the water is over their backs. The Florida Emergency Relief Administration has offered to advance funds for control work if assurances are given that lasting benefits will be secured.

ECC Aiding Beekeepers.--The Farm Credit Corporation has taken steps to advance emergency loans to migratory beekeepers in the drought-affected regions. Many of these beekeepers have stood in danger of losing their bees through starvation because, owing to the nature of their business, they were unable to provide the necessary collateral heretofore with which to obtain Government loans.

Respectfully,

S. A. Rohwer,
Acting Chief of Bureau.